



SRC Calendar:

**Monday,
January 23**

- **10 a.m.** Senate Ag & Rural ED Committee hearing on SB 6573 (Sen. Zarelli) requiring state to be consistent in administration of state and federal wetlands programs to protect agriculture (SHR 3).
- **10 a.m.** Labor & Comm. Committee hearing on SB 6382 (Sen. Hewitt) dealing with improving horse racing facilities and promoting the industry (SHR 4).
- **3:30 p.m.** Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee hearing on bill creating a blue ribbon commission on health care costs & access (SHR 4).
- **12 noon** Coalition for Religious Equality gay rights rally (est. crowd – 1,700).

**Tuesday,
January 24**

- **10 a.m.** Senate Gov't Ops & Elections Committee hearing on SB 6388 (Sen. Benton) restricting use of eminent domain laws to construction of public use facilities (SHR 2).
- **11:30 a.m. Potato Day**
- **3:30 p.m.** Water, Energy & Environment Committee hearings on SB 6250 (Sen. Morton) capping public utility taxes and SB 6482 (Sen. Honeyford) creating an energy assistance funding account with dedicated funds.
- **3:30 p.m.** Judiciary Committee hearing on SB 5343 regulating sales of firearms at guns shows & events.
- **3:30 p.m.** Senate Financial Institutions Committee hearing on HB 2661, the "gay rights" bill. Also a hearing on SB 6559 (Sen. Delvin) creating tax credits for contributions to low-income housing programs (SHR 2).

**Wednesday,
January 25**

- **8 a.m.** Senate K-12 Committee hearing on SB 6532 (Sen. Delvin) directing OSPI to create a new academic assessment plan in grades 3, 5, 6 & 8 (SHR 1).
- **8 a.m.** Natural Resources Committee hearing on SB 6625 (Sen. Parlette) creating statewide habitat and recreation lands coordinating group to better manage land acquisition and disposal (SHR 2).
- **10 a.m.** Senate session & caucus.
- **3:30 p.m.** Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on AG request bill concerning news media shield law (SHR 1).

**Thursday,
January 26**

- **8 a.m.** Senate Government Ops Committee hearing on bill (SJR 8201) to amend the constitution by removing referenda and initiatives (SHR 2).
- **8:30 a.m.** Senate Ag Committee hearing on SB 6542 (Sen. Mulliken) exempting farm services from the B&O tax (SHR 3).
- **10 a.m.** Senate Water, Energy & Environment Committee hearing on SB 6507 (Sen. Honeyford) providing assistance to watershed management partnerships (SHR 4).

Republican 'Commitment to Washington'

Good progress is being made on the Republicans' 11-point agenda for this session of the Legislature.

To help family farms, the Senate is expected to pass HB 2424, removing the sales tax on diesel fuel for farm vehicles and equipment. That bill was approved in the House 96-1 and passed out of the Senate Agriculture and Rural Economic Development Committee this week.

To help the poor and the elderly with the high cost of heating their homes, the Legislature approved, and the governor signed, a bill providing \$7.6 million in additional assistance. About 14,000 more families around the state will be getting help.

"Yes, this is a good bill," **Sen. Jim Honeyford** told the *Yakima Herald-Republic* (1/12), "but it has a problem. This source of funding is not permanent. What are we going to do next year?"

To answer that question, Honeyford is sponsoring legislation, which will be heard in committee next week, creating a permanent energy assistance funding account with a dedicated money source.

You can learn more about how the Republican agenda is faring by watching **Senate Republican Leader Mike Hewitt** on TVW's *Inside Olympia* and *Olympia On-Call* programs this weekend.

Inside Olympia is shown Saturday at 10 p.m. and Sunday at both 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Olympia On-Call can be seen Friday at 9 p.m., Saturday at 9 a.m. and Sunday at 8 p.m.

In the News

On allowing a vote of the people prior to additional annexations in Clark County by the city of Vancouver: "State **Sen. Don Benton**, R-Vancouver, introduced legislation last week requiring a vote if 10 percent or more of registered voters in a proposed annexation sign petitions seeking an election. "Annexation decisions have been moving in the wrong direction," **Benton** said. "It's time to go back to the people and give them a say in the process." (*The Columbian*, 1-18-06)

Sen. Mike Hewitt, responding to a question about the economy's turnaround: "We agree that it had to

**Friday,
January 27**

- **8 a.m.** Senate K-12 Committee hearing on SB 6487 (Sen. Schoesler) making the granting of false academic credentials a Class C felony (SHR 1).
- **10 a.m.** Senate session and caucus.

do with policy choices. In fact, we're calling it the '**Rossi Recovery**.'"

Outreach to Eastern Washington?

Sen. Darlene Fairley, D-Lake Forest Park, on moving Committee Assembly Days to Eastern Washington, remarked that Eastern Washington has, "very good roads going nowhere. They've got extremely good roads over there going to places that are all boarded up and are small and it's sad." (*Tri-City Herald*, 1-17-06)

Senate Republican Caucus Communications

To submit an item or correction, contact Rebecca Japhet, Japhet.Rebecca@leg.wa.gov or (360) 786-7516